

Minutes of the 20th meeting of the Academic Council held on 11th Nov 2016
at Barad Sadan Academic Block, Gangtok

20th meeting of the Academic Council was held on 11th Nov 2016 at 11:00 am at Barad Sadan Conference Hall. Following members were present:

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| 1. Prof. T.B.Subba,
Vice-Chancellor | - | Chairperson |
| 2. Prof. Deepak Kr. Srivastava,
Deptt. of International Business,
Institute of Management,
Nirma University, Ahmedabad | - | Member |
| 3. Dr. Santanu Dey,
Department of History
Rama Krishna Vidya Mandir
Belur Math, Howrah | - | Member |
| 4. Dr. Ganesh Ji Tiwari,
Principal,
Sikkim Govt. Law College, Burtuk | - | Member |
| 5. Dr. Sandhya Rai,
Principal,
Loyola College of Education, Namchi | - | Member |
| 6. Prof. Jyoti Prakash Tamang,
Dean, School of Life Sciences | - | Member |
| 7. Prof. Irshad Gulam Ahmed,
Dean, School of Languages & Literature | - | Member |
| 8. Prof. V. Rama Devi,
Dean, School of Professional Studies | - | Member |
| 9. Prof. Imtiaz Gulam Ahmed,
Dean, School of Social Sciences | - | Member |
| 10. Dr. Subir Mukhopadhyay,
Dean, School of Physical Sciences | - | Member |
| 11. Dr. Nutankumar S. Thingujam,
Dean, School of Human Sciences | - | Member |
| 12. Dr. S. Manivannan,
Dean, Students' Welfare | - | Member |
| 13. Dr. Debashis Chowdhury,
Controller of Examinations | - | Member |
| 14. Dr. Nawal K. Paswan,
Head, Deptt. of Peace and Conflict Studies &
Management | - | Member |
| 15. Dr. Vijay Kumar Thangellapali,
Head, Deptt. of History | - | Member |

16.Prof. Abhijit Dutta, Professor, Deptt. of Commerce	-	Member
17.Dr. Dhaniraj Chettri, Head, Deptt. of Botany	-	Member
18.Dr. H.K. Tiwari, Head, Deptt. of Microbiology	-	Member
19.Dr. Manish Head, Deptt. of International Relations	-	Member
20.Dr. Laxuman Sharma, Head, Deptt. of Horticulture	-	Member
21.Dr. Komol Singha, Head, Deptt. of Economics	-	Member
22.Dr. Durga Prasad Chhetri, Head, Deptt. of Political Science	-	Member
23.Dr. Swati A. Sachdeva Head, Deptt. of Sociology	-	Member
24.Dr. Kotra Rhine Rama Mohan, Head, Deptt. of Anthropology	-	Member
25.Dr. Silajit Guha, Head, Deptt. of Mass Communication	-	Member
26.Dr. Amitabha Bhattacharya, Head, Deptt. of Physics	-	Member
27.Dr. Krishnendu Dutta Head, Deptt. of Music	-	Member
28.Dr. Mohan Pratap Pradhan, Head, Deptt. of Computer Applications	-	Member
29.Dr. T.M.S. Raju, Head, Deptt. of Education	-	Member
30.Dr. Puspha Sharma, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Nepali	-	Member
31.Dr. S.S. Mahapatra, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Commerce	-	Member
32.Dr. N. Sathyanarayana, Assoc. Professor, Deptt. of Botany	-	Member
33.Shri P.K. Singh, Finance Officer	-	Special Invitee
34.Shri T.K.Kaul, Registrar	-	Secretary

The following members could not attend the meeting because of their pre-occupation and sought leave of absence.

1. Prof. S.P.S. Rajput
2. Prof. Kamakhya Prasad
3. Dr. Tankanath Sharma Khatiwara
4. Prof. Rajesh Sharan
5. Prof. Ananda Mukhopadhyay
6. Prof. A.S. Chandel
7. Prof. Pratap Chandra Pradhan
8. Dr. Sandhya Thapa

Dr. S.K. Gurung, Joint Registrar (Acad.) and Shri Satyam Rana, Assistant were present to assist the Council.

At the outset the Chairman welcomed all the members of the Council. Thereafter, agenda items were taken up as under:

SECTION 1 CONFIRMATION OF THE MINUTES & ACTION TAKEN REPORT

AC20.1.1: Confirmation of the minutes of the 19th meeting of the Academic Council held on 3rd June 2016

Minutes of the 19th meeting of the Academic Council held on 3rd June 2016 were circulated to all the members on 13th June 2016 by e-mail and on 20th June 2016 by post. Prof. V. Rama Devi has informed that under item AC19.4.F7, the credit for the syllabus for M.Com course need to be corrected as 96 credits instead of 90 credits as mentioned in the minutes.

The Council, with the above mentioned modification, confirmed the minutes of 19th meeting of the Academic Council held on 3rd June 2016.

AC20.1.2: Action Taken Report on the minutes of the 19th meeting of the Academic Council held on 3rd June 2016

The Secretary presented the action taken report on the minutes of the 19th meeting of the Council. The Council noted the action taken by the University.

SECTION 2 REPORTING ITEMS

AC20.2.1: Synopsis for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University

The Council noted the approval of various School Boards to the synopses for M.Phil/Ph.D registrations in the University as per the details given below:

Sl. No.	Name of the School	Name of the Department	No. of synopsis registered	
			M.Phil	Ph.D
1)	School of Life Sciences	Horticulture	--	4
2)	School of Human Sciences	Psychology	--	2
		Geography	--	2
3)	School of Physical Sciences	Chemistry	--	2
4)	School of Languages & Literature	Nepali	--	1

5)	School of Social Sciences	International Relations	--	2
		Sociology	--	3
		History	--	1
		Economics	--	1

The Chairman pointed out that change in title/objectives of synopses may be carried out at the School Board level. These need not be reported to the Academic Council.

SECTION 3
RATIFICATION MATTERS
Nil

SECTION 4
MATTER FOR CONSIDERATION AND APPROVAL

A) PANEL OF EXAMINERS ETC.

AC20.4.A1: Panel of external examiners

The Council approved the panel of external examiners as per the details given below as recommended by the concerned School Boards for the purpose as mentioned in the table.

1. School of Human Sciences

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	External Examiners
1.	Psychology	M.Phil. dissertation
2.	Geography	M.Phil. dissertation

2. School of Professional Studies

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	External Examiners
1.	Education	MA and M.Phil. dissertation
2.	Mass Communication	M.Phil. dissertation

3. School of Physical Sciences

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	External Examiners
1.	Physics	M.Phil. dissertation
2.	Chemistry	M.Phil. dissertation

4. School of Languages & Literature

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	External Examiners
1.	English	M.Phil. dissertation
2.	Hindi	M.Phil. dissertation
3.	Nepali *	M.Phil. dissertation

*Not recorded in the minutes of the School Board inadvertently.

5. School of Social Sciences

Sl. No.	Name of the Department	External Examiners
1.	PCS&M	M.Phil dissertation & Ph.D. thesis
2.	International Relations	M.Phil dissertation
3.	Sociology	M.Phil dissertation/ Ph.D. thesis
4.	Economics	M.Phil dissertation
5.	Political Science	M.Phil dissertation
6.	History	M.Phil dissertation/ Ph.D. thesis
7.	Law	M.Phil dissertation

The Council noted that physical availability of External Examiner for viva in M.Phil & Ph.D theses consumes a lot of time. The Council, therefore, advised that the University may explore the possibility of conducting viva online using ICT tools.

B) SYLLABUS MATTERS/COURSES ETC.

AC20.4.B1: *Introduction of IPR as a generic subject under CBCS in the University and the affiliated colleges*

UGC vide letter dated 15th July 2016 has requested to introduce Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as a generic elective subject under Choice Based Credit System (CBCS) in the University and the affiliated colleges.

After deliberations, the Council approved starting Intellectual Property Rights (IPR) as a generic foundation course in the University and the affiliated colleges at undergraduate level. The Council also constituted the syllabus designing Committee as under:

1. Dr. Laxuman Sharma, Convener
2. Dr. K. Rama Mohan
3. Dr. Pravin Mishra
4. Dr. Bhoj Kumar Acharya
5. Dr. Santosh Kumar Rai

The Committee may also get inputs form Prof. Deepak Srivastava.

AC20.4.B2: *Syllabus for Ph.D course work in Horticulture*

Head, Deptt. of Horticulture presented the syllabus for course work in Ph.D in Horticulture, which was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B3: *Change in the contents of B.Sc. (Horticulture) syllabus under Study Tour*

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Life Sciences, the Council approved the proposed changes in the contents of B.Sc.(Horticulture) syllabus under Study Tour as mentioned below:

- i) HOR-UG-308 presently with the title 'North East Study Tour (winter vacation)' is proposed for change to "Field Trip at Regional Level Institute (winter vacation)" and
- ii) HOR-UG-702 presently with the title 'All India Study Tour (winter vacation)' is proposed for change to "Field Trip at National Level Institute (winter vacation)".

The Council noted that the Study Tours constitute only 1 credit. It is, therefore, advised that the Study Tours may be taken more seriously, be of longer duration, more institutions be covered and with more credits. Such aspects need to be kept in view while making revision in the syllabus.

AC20.4.B4: *Syllabus design of 3 year B.Ed. (Part-Time) Programme*

Head, Deptt. of Education presented the syllabus of 3 year B.Ed (Part-Time) Programme which was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B5: Review of Syllabus of M.A. Tourism

In-charge, Tourism Department explained the changes in the name, programme structure and course contents as under:

- Adventure tourism and Tourism economics courses to be swapped between second and third semesters.
- Taxation concepts in Semester one and Adventure tourism in Semester three to be offered as open courses.
- In order to provide exposure to the functional areas of Management, the contents of the course TOU-PG-C204 to include topics of HR, Accounts and Finance in addition to Organizational Behaviour.
- Field study in Semester four to be replaced by Project work and field study would be an integral part of the Project work.
- Changes were suggested in the contents of Communication skills (TOU-PG-C203), Tourism Economics (TOU-PG-C301) and Tourism Marketing (TOU-PG-C402).

As there were five units in the Course 'Event Management' (TOU-PG-O404), the School Board recommended reorganizing the units into four.

The Council approved the revised programme structure and course contents and also recommended to the Executive Council for approval, on the recommendations of the School Board, to change the name of the Programme from M.A. Tourism to Masters in Travel and Tourism Management (MTTM) and to charge professional fees from 2017-18.

AC20.4.B6: Syllabus design for M.Phil Course work in Tourism

In-charge, Department of Tourism presented the syllabus of M.Phil Course work in Tourism which was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B7: Syllabus design of Ph.D course work in Music

Head, Department of Music presented the syllabus of Ph.D course work in Music which was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B8: Introduction of Ph.D. Programme in Chinese

Based on the recommendations of the School Board of Languages and Literature, the Council approved the proposal for introduction of Ph.D Programme in the Department of Chinese with one Ph.D seat from the forthcoming academic session 2017-18.

AC20.4.B9: Ph.D course work syllabus in Chinese

In-charge, Chinese Department presented the syllabus for Ph.D course work in Chinese which was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B10: Introduction of an optional paper in MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management

Head, Department of Peace and Conflict Studies and Management presented this item. The recommendations of the School Board of the Social Sciences for introduction of an optional paper entitled "*Theory and Practice of Human Rights*" in the fourth semester of MA in Peace and Conflict Studies and Management Programme was approved by the Council.

AC20.4.B11: Introduction of an optional paper in MA Sociology programme

Head, Department of Sociology presented this item. On the recommendations of the School Board of Social Sciences, the Council approved the introduction of optional paper entitled "*Themes and Perspectives in Sociology of Education*" in M.A. Sociology course.

AC20.4.B12: Introduction of a Certificate Course on Human Rights in the Department of Political Science

Head, Department of Political Science presented this item. The department was commended for taking initiative for preparing "Add-on" course for the benefit of students. However, the Council suggested to convert six units into four units syllabus and submit again in the next meeting of the Academic Council for approval. The University also requires to draft Regulations for Certificate and Diploma courses. A committee for that need to be constituted with representatives from each School.

AC20.4.B13: Revised syllabus of MA Economics and syllabus for M.Phil/Ph.D. course work in Economics

Head, Department of Economics presented this item. The Council approved the revised syllabus of MA in Economics but deferred approval to two papers in Basic and Advanced Econometrics which need to be submitted again in the next meeting of the Council for approval. Syllabus for course work in M.Phil/ Ph.D need also to be revised and submitted in the next meeting of the Council for approval.

C) STATUTES/ORDINANCES/REGULATIONS MATTERS

AC20.4.C1: Amendments in Ordinance OC-6 and OC-7

University Grants Commission vide Notification dated 5th May 2016 announced the UGC (Minimum Standards and Procedure for Award of M.Phil/Ph.D Degrees) Regulations, 2016. Most of the provisions in the Ordinances of the University on M.Phil/Ph.D programme (OC-6 and OC-7) are in conformity to the said Regulations, 2016. Clause 5 under "Duration" for both OC-6 and OC-7 need to be amended to include a provision as enshrined in the UGC Regulations, 2016.

The Council after deliberations recommended for approval of amendments in Ordinance OC-6 and OC-7 under Clause 5 in each case to the Executive Council.

D) MISCELLANEOUS MATTERS

AC20.4.D1: *Institution of Gold Medals for excellence in education sponsored by Sitaram Jindal Foundation*

The Council deliberated on the matter and recommended Institution of Gold Medals for outstanding achievements in our University in various subjects/courses by Sitaram Jindal Foundation and terms and conditions laid by the foundation for Gold Medals for approval by the Executive Council.

The Council after deliberations authorised the Vice-Chancellor to select eight subjects/courses out of which three will be selected by the foundation for Institution of Gold Medals.

AC20.4.D2: *Annual Grants for Departments under School of Life Sciences*

The Council considered the proposal of School Board of Life Sciences for Annual grant to each department under the School of Life Sciences. It was reported that each Science department spends on an average ₹15 lakhs on consumables. As such allocation of ₹5 lakhs may not suffice. Secondly, it involves delegation of financial powers to the department. Delegation of financial powers is presently under consideration and Finance Officer is holding views contrary in this regard. We may have to wait for some more time till expenditure on consumables in the Science departments stabilizes.

AC20.4.D3: *Matter related to 'Field Work'*

The Council was informed that 'Study Tour' is not part of the curriculum but 'Field Work' is a part of the curriculum. Rates per diem for Field Work/Study tour for faculty are prescribed as per GoI guidelines. No enhancement can be made in this till Govt. revises the rates. Regarding per diem of students, it was informed that students should contribute part of the field work expenditure.

AC20.4.D4: *Proposal to start an e-journal by School of Professional Studies*

The Council after deliberations approved the proposal of School of Professional Studies for starting an e-journal.

AC20.4.D5: *De-registration of two students*

The Council noted that the Ordinance does not permit de-registration and thereafter registration of research scholars. However, the Council suggested that the Vice-Chancellor may constitute a Committee to look into de-registration and suggest amendments in Ordinance OC-6 and OC-7.

AC20.4.D6: *Extension of date for submission of M.Phil. dissertation*

The Council after deliberations approved the recommendations of the School Boards of Languages and Literature and Social Sciences in extension of date for submission of M.Phil. dissertations as under:

- i) Mr. Dharma Chandra Barai and Mr. Anup Sharma in the Department of English by one semester ie. 30th June 2017 on account of health issues in their families.

- ii) Ms. Nunita Rai and Ms. Ranju Gupta Rai in the Department of Hindi by one semester till 30th June 2017 due to not being in a position to complete the preparation of the bibliography.
- iii) Mr. Ratna Bahadur Rasaily and Ms. Bijaya Tamang in the Department of Nepali by one semester until 30th June 2017.
- iv) Mr. Tamila Paraseth of Department of Political Science by one semester.
- v) Pranati Das, Hangma Basumatary and Yaman Ghatani of Department of Economics by one semester.
- vi) Baira Ganjan Dash, Sashikala Sanyasi and Smriti Shankar of Department of History by one semester.

The Council, however, noted that no reason has been given in most of the cases. In future, the School Boards should consider and record reasons for grant of extension in submission of M.Phil dissertation.

AC20.4.D7: Grace Marks for NSS Volunteers in admission

The Council considered the letter dated 23rd April 2013 from Secretary, UGC requesting all the Universities to recognize NSS as a co-curricular activity under the credit based semester scheme for both under graduate and post graduate programmes and consider giving grace marks for admission to graduate and post graduate levels.

The Council after deliberations approved to add 5 marks in the marks obtained in qualifying examinations/Central Admission Test for admission to Post Graduate Programmes under the University in respect of those applicants who have rendered a minimum of 200 hours of experience in NSS.

**SECTION 5
MINUTES OF AUTHORITIES/COMMITTEES**

AC20.5.1: Minutes of the 5th meeting of the School Board of Life Sciences, Sikkim University held on 2nd November 2016

Noted by the Council.

AC20.5.2: Minutes of the 6th meeting of the School Board of Human Sciences, Sikkim University held on 31st October 2016

Noted by the Council.

AC20.5.3: Minutes of the 5th meeting of the School Board of Professional Studies, Sikkim University held on 3rd November 2016

Noted by the Council.

AC20.5.4: Minutes of the 6th meeting of the School Board of Physical Sciences, Sikkim University held on 2nd November 2016

Noted by the Council.

AC20.5.5: Minutes of the 5th meeting of the School Board of Languages and Literature, Sikkim University held on 2nd November 2016

Noted by the Council.

AC20.5.6: Minutes of the 6th meeting of the School Board of Social Sciences, Sikkim University held on 3rd November 2016

Noted by the Council.

TABLE ITEM

AC20.5.7: Minutes of the 6th meeting of the College Development Council held on 5th Nov 2016

Academic Council approved the minutes of the 6th meeting of the College Development Council held on 5th Nov 2016. The Council gave the specific approval/ recommendations to the following items:

- i) Recommended to the Executive Council for grant of temporary affiliation to Government Vocational College, Dentam and to give 'No Objection Certificate' to the College required to apply to the AICTE for recognition of the courses it proposed to start.
- ii) The Council accepted the recommendations of the College Development Council in respect of starting 2 PG subjects at Namchi Government College, Namchi provided the inspection team to be sent in April 2017 recommends it.
- iii) The Council recommended for approval by the Executive Council to Regulations on B.Ed. (Part Time).
- iv) The Council approved recommendations of the College Development Council in starting Pass as well as Honours Course at Under Graduate level in all Colleges with effect from the academic session 2017-18. Action to amend relevant Regulations to allow Pass and Honours Course need to be initiated by the University.
- v) The Council after deliberations approved recommendations of the College Development Council in conducting following foundation papers uniformly over three semesters both in Colleges and University departments spreading across three semesters namely IV, V and VI semesters in respective order.
 1. Compulsory English
 2. Environmental Studies (ENVS)
 3. Eastern Himalayan Studies (EHS)/Human Rights(HR)/Public Administration (PA)/Gender Studies (GS)

Intellectual Property Right (IPR)also to be added to Sl.No.3

- vi) The Council approved the recommendations of the College Development Council to change the syllabus to incorporate practical examination in the End Semester examination, so that there is at least one practical paper out of three papers in each subject in Pass course and 3 practical papers out of 9 papers in Honours course. Each practical paper should be of 100 marks or 4 credits

each. All courses having practical components may incorporate such provision in the syllabus when they go for major syllabus revision next year.

- vii) The Council approved the recommendations of the College Development Council to start M.Phil/Ph.D programme at Harkamaya College of Education from 2017-18 within the ambit of the existing University Ordinances OC-6 and OC-7 ie. on joint supervision basis.
- viii) The Council accepted the recommendations of the College Development Council in starting 9 PG subjects at Sikkim Government College, Tadong provided the inspection team to be sent in April 2017 recommends it.
- ix) In respect of temporary affiliation to the proposed Engineering College at Chisopani, South Sikkim, the Council after deliberations deferred to grant NOC to the proposed “Sikkim Institute of Science and Technology (SIST)” to apply to AICTE for approval, on account of non-availability of infrastructure.

SECTION 6 ITEMS FROM THE CHAIR

AC20.6.1: The Chairman informed the Council that the University started three new departments of Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu after obtaining approval from the UGC. A separate building was hired for these departments. Rooms in the building can hardly accommodate 20 seats and hence only 20 seats were allotted to each of these departments for MA course. There had been a lot of pressure from these communities, students, parents and others for increase in the number of seats for these departments. To tide over the constraint of space, it was also suggested to hold classes in the respective Bhawans of Lepcha, Bhutia and Limbu. The University team visited all three Bhawans and held meetings with the representatives of these communities. The infrastructure in those Bhawans is not sufficient and suitable to start classes.

The Council suggested not to increase the number of seats in these departments for the time being.

AC20.6.2: The Department of Limbu in the University is spelled as ‘Limbu’ but Govt. of Sikkim has been using the word ‘Limboo’ since 1980. Clause 6 (a) of Statute 15 of the University has spelled it as ‘Limbu’. As such the name of the Department will remain as Department of ‘Limbu’, as per the provision given in the Statute.

AC20.6.3: Govt. of Sikkim is running Buddhist monastic courses of ‘Acharya’ and ‘Shastri’ from SHEDA Colleges which are affiliated to Sampurnanand University, Varanasi in contravention to Section 6 of Sikkim University Act. Those colleges have sought equivalence from Sikkim University for degrees of ‘Acharya’ and ‘Shastri’.

The Council opined that since these colleges are running in contravention of Sikkim University Act and the Govt. of Sikkim have so far not obtained exemption order from the Central government under proviso to Section 6 of Sikkim University Act, equivalence to the degrees of ‘Acharya’ and ‘Shastri’ given to the students coming out of SHEDA Colleges cannot be considered at this stage.

AC20.6.4: With the approval of constitution of Sikkim University Students' Association (SUSA) by the Executive Council and its notification, process for election to various posts of Executive Committee for SUSA has been completed in the month of October 2016 and a new elected SUSA team has taken over. The Executive Committee members of SUSA in a meeting with the Vice-Chancellor have demanded, among other things, membership in various statutory bodies of Sikkim University.

The Council after deliberations did not agree with the request of SUSA stating that such provision should exist only for alumnus, rather than current students of the University. Chairman informed the members that the proposal for inclusion of alumni in the Academic Council and Executive Council has already been sent to MHRD for amending relevant provisions of the Statutes.

AC20.6.4: One of the members pointed out that the syllabus of all courses have to be revised. In order to start the process in time, Registrar may issue notice to all the departments so that the revised curriculum of all courses are ready well before time.

Meeting ended with a vote of thanks to the chair.

Sd/-
(T.K.Kaul)
Registrar & Secretary

Sd/-
(T.B.Subba)
Vice-Chancellor & Chairman